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S E C R E T SECTION 01 OF 02 ANKARA 004669

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E.O. 12958: DECL: 07/23/2013

TAGS: [PREL](#) [MOPS](#) [TU](#) [IZ](#)

SUBJECT: TURKISH INFORMATION ON IRAQI GOVERNING COUNCIL
MEMBER MAHMOUD OTHMAN

REF: ANKARA 4539

(U) Classified by Charge d'Affaires Robert Deutsch, reasons
1.5, b/d.

[1](#)1. (U) Baghdad minimize considered.

[1](#)2. (S) On July 23 the Government of Turkey passed to the Embassy the information below to support its claims that Iraqi Governing Council member Mahmoud Othman is closely affiliated with the PKK/KADEK. (Note: KYB is the Turkish abbreviation for Talabani's PUK.)

Begin Text:

The information we have regarding Mahmoud Othman, who is one of the independent Kurdish Members of five Kurdish members of the interim administrative council established in Iraq, is as follows:

- 1.1 He was born in 1939 in Suleymaniye, and he is a Sunni;
- 1.2 He is a member of the Soran tribe;
- 1.3 Between the years 1964 and 1975, he worked as the secretary of the KDP executive committee and as a politburo

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member;

- 1.4 He was among the Kurdish leaders who held the secret meetings in June 1969 led by Molla Mustafa Barzani in Iraq called, "Kurdish Revolutionary Council" and "Meclis-I Tenfis";

- 1.5 In 1969, he worked as deputy head of the KDP foreign committee and attended the meetings under this title;
- 1.6 He was a refugee in Iran from 1975 to 1976;
- 1.7 Between the years 1976 and 1977, he carried out activities to establish the KYB together with leader of the KYB Celal Talabani in Syria;
- 1.8 He was among the Damascus central administrators of the KYB in December 1977, and after he was replaced by another person he crossed to Iraq in 1978;
- 1.9 In 1979, he carried out activities together with C. Talabani and worked as the General Secretary of the "Kurdish Country Union" established in January 1979 by C. Talabani;
- 1.10 He attended the meetings held by Kurdish leaders in Iran in 1979;
- 1.11 In November 1979, he was under the command of the KDP interim commandership;
- 1.12 In January 1981, he conducted an armed attack against the Iraqi Government together with a force of 1000 individuals;
- 1.13 He became the leader of the Iraqi Kurdistan Socialist Party (IKSP) established in November 1981;
- 1.14 He went to the USA in 1986 to provide cooperation between the Kurdish organizations;
- 1.15 In 1989, he was in Paris for a while and attended various meetings and conferences, and at the same time he commanded the forces attached to him in Iraq/Mergasor Region;
- 1.16 In April 1990, he attended the symposium on "Kurdish Issue" held in Switzerland/Lausanne;
- 1.17 In December 1990, he was the official spokesman of the Iraqi Kurdistan front;
- 1.18 He was General Head of the IKSP from 1990 to 1992, but due to some disagreements with the administrators, he left the IKSP and went to Europe;
- 1.19 He attended the meeting held in Iraq/Selahattin on 10 February, 1993 by Iraqi opponent organizations;
- 1.20 He had direct contact with Abdullah Ocalan and members of the KADEK (PKK) administrative council, and in January 1999, when A. Ocalan was in Italy and wanted to stay in Italy, he tried to have him stay and frequently talked on the phone with A. Ocalan during that term. A. Ocalan said regarding him that, "everybody should benefit from his experiences and opinions."
- 1.21 He attended the meetings, conferences and such activities held by subsidiary foundations of so-called, "Kurdistan National Congress (KUK)" and the KADEK (PKK) as a "Kurdish Politician";

1.22 He sometimes held negotiations with the high-ranking KADEK (PKK) members regarding the KDP and KYB developments and developments in Iraq;

1.23 He had an active role during the preparatory stage of the "Kurdistan National Congress" established by the KADEK (PKK) as of 1977, and worked at "National Congress Preparatory Commission";

1.24 He attended the conference regarding the problems of Iraqi Kurds and establishing dialogue between Arabs and Kurds together with the authorities of the KYB and KDP held in May 1998 in Cairo by Egyptian solidarity committee;

1.25 During the "solving the Kurdish issue forum" held on 28 and 29 July ---- by Washington Kurdish Institute, he made some statements regarding the situation in Iraq;

1.26 He attended the International Conference named "Kurds-The People Who Do Not Have a State" organized by Brussels Kurdish Institute in Belgium/Leuven on 10 October 1998 and made some statements that there should be permanent agreement between the KDP and KYB and in order to achieve this, he would continue acting as a mediator;

1.27 He attended the 12th yearly meeting of the North America Kurdish National Congress (KNC) organized in the USA/Michigan from 30 July to 31 July 1999, and there he said that, "A. Ocalan and the Kurdish movement in Turkey should be supported by all the Kurdish parties, and they would not shut their eyes to the state terror in Turkey";

1.28 During the meeting named, "establishing peace between Kurds" organized by the KUK on 19 and 20 August 2000 in Brussels, a seven member committee was formed to establish peace between the Kurds in so-called northern Kurdistan, and to organize a conference called, "International Kurdish Peace Conference," and he was chosen as the head of the committee;

1.29 During the disputes between the PKK and KYB occurred at the end of 2000, at the request of the PKK high-ranking administrators, he worked to establish dialogue between the PKK and KYB, and to reach his aim, he headed a group formed by Kurdish individuals residing in European countries, and on 20 September 2000, he went to Suleymaniye. But when he became unsuccessful as a mediator, he resigned from the "Council for Establishing Peace Between the Kurds";

1.30 He made a speech at the activity named, "Unity for the Kurdish Issue, National Conference for Peace and Democracy" organized by the KUK on 13 and 14 December 2001 in Brussels;

1.31 He sometimes took part in some Media TV programs and put forward his views as a "Kurdish Politician";

1.32 He has direct contact with the high-ranking administrators of the KADEK (PKK).

End Text.
DEUTSCH